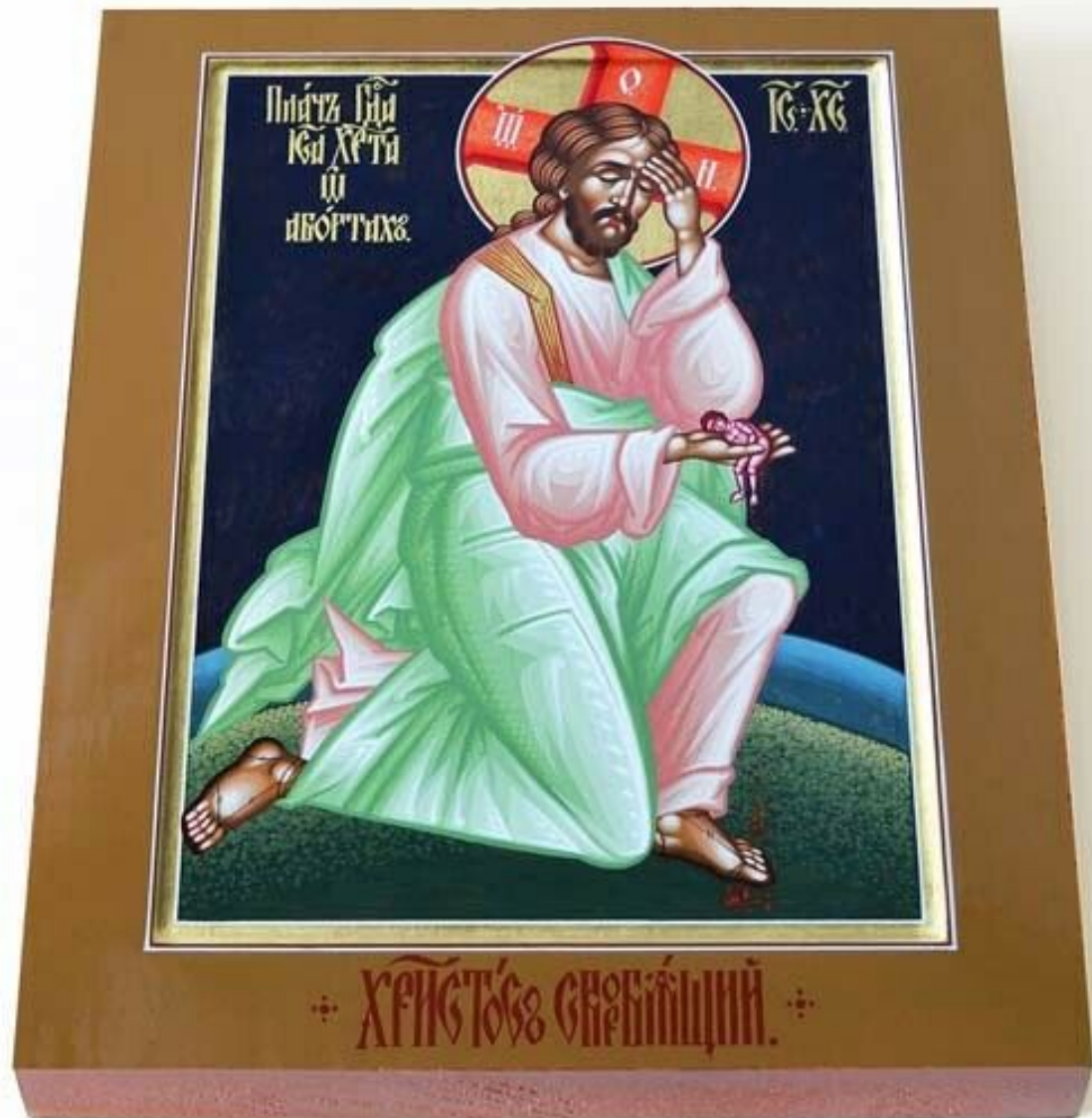


Abortion Is God-hating, Premeditated Murder

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A believing husband and wife once went to Geronda seeking his advice [they did not have him as a spiritual father]. Their problem was that the woman was taking strong medication for one of her illnesses, and during the treatment, she became pregnant. The doctor advised her to have an abortion because the child would be disabled. Geronda told them:

“And what have you come to me for? Give you permission to kill it?”

The couple didn’t respond.

“Do you have other children?”

“Yes,” they answered. “We have a little boy.”

“Are they healthy?” Geronda asked.

“Yes,” they answered.

“If God forbid, your child is struck by a semi or hit by a car and hit by a car, will you throw it away or kill it?”

“Of course not.”

“Then why do you want to kill the baby? Because you haven't seen it yet or because you don't love it? It doesn't matter. It's your child too. Listen: Science is not infallible. Doctors are often thrown out. And above the doctors, there is God, the creator. In Him, you can trust. I believe he won't be born crippled, as the doctors say. But if something like that should happen, praise God and consider that this is your cross to bear, and He will credit your account in Heaven. And when you go there, you will say to Him: ‘Lord, by the words of thy lips, I have guarded [myself from] hard ways’ (Ps. 16:4). **Do not want to avoid this cross, for another heavier one will be waiting for you.** Have courage. Pray to our Lord. I'll pray, too, and I believe your child will be born healthy. Go to the Lord's Prayer.”

Indeed, a cute and healthy baby girl was born after about a few months. With tears, the parents announced it to the Elder: “Thank you for your support and prayers. The Lord God lives!” [From the book *Mortgages of Life*, which reports incidents in the life of the late Fr. Epiphanius I. Theodoropoulos.

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Orthodox anthropology accepts that man is the animate image of God from the very first moment of his conception.

Thus:

- Each embryo, throughout its gestation, constitutes a special psychosomatic whole and a completely separate, unique and unrepeatable human existence.
- Each embryo always has a unique sanctity, and our absolute respect for it is imperative.
- Each embryo, from the moment of conception onwards, constitutes the whole human being, and therefore its value is infinite.
- Each embryo is constantly a living animate image of God; therefore, any deliberate rejection of it at any time in its life is [Hubris](#) (*ὕβρις*) against the Creator Himself.

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Abortion, at any time after conception, is unquestionably a premeditated murder of an innocent and indefensible human being.

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“Abortion degrades and humiliates the personality of the woman. And how can this not happen when the blood of the innocent fetus keeps crying out in silent screams:”

Doctor, why are you killing me?

Ma, why are you handing me over to the demon doctor?

Mother, Father, what have I done to you?

What is my guilt?

What is the charge against me?

Why did you do this?

Because you haven't seen me yet, and I can't defend myself?

Let me lose the light, too.

Baptize me first; as an angel, I'll fly close to God.

Why are you cowardly?

Woe to you on the Day of Judgment!

I will be your judge!

(Presbyter George Ant. Kalpouzos)

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“A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted because they are no more” (Matthew 2:18).

According to the dogmatic teaching of our Church, our Lord Jesus Christ is simultaneously perfect God and perfect man. As a perfect man, Christ is “like us according to humanity” (term of the Third Ecumenical Council) and “in all things like us without sin” (term of the Fourth Ecumenical Council).

Therefore:

What is true concerning the human nature of Christ (with one exception from any other human existence):

- a. His seedless conception,
- b. His sinlessness, the same and inviolable, applies to every other human being.

Since, therefore, our Lord was a complete man, a complete psychosomatic whole, from the first moment of His conception (From the very beginning of His conception, as the Holy Fathers say), it follows that every human being constitutes a complete psychosomatic wholeness from the very first moment of his conception.

The [8th Canon](#) of St. Basil the Great (which is identical to the [91st Canon](#) of the Sixth Holy and Ecumenical Synod) says:

“The same may be said of women who bring about a miscarriage by giving drugs for this purpose and the women who take abortifacient poisons; they too are murderesses.”

“Those who give drugs for procuring abortion, and those who receive poisons to kill the foetus, are subjected to the penalty of murder.”

These canons of St. Basil were adopted and ratified by the 630 venerable and God-bearing Fathers of our Church, who convened and composed the Sixth Ecumenical Council. Therefore, these Canons have an ecumenical authority and certainly express the infallible and unchanging “phronema” of Orthodoxy.

In light of the above, it's evident that:

Anyone who denies the fact that human life begins at the moment of conception (fertilization) and, therefore, that the embryo is animated from the very moment of conception denies, in essence, the Christological and anthropological foundations of the Orthodox Faith; even denies the cornerstone of the mystery of the divine economy, denies the mystery of the divine incarnation and comes face to face with the decisions of four Ecumenical Councils.

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Worse than Herod

For the Church of Christ, abortion, termination of pregnancy, is not simply a morally unacceptable act. It is a -- without twists and sinful rhetoric -- MURDER. It is premeditated murder. It's deliberate killing. In fact, it is a murder more guilty, sinful, and God-hating than any other murder because it deprives a human being of life before he tastes it, especially before he receives Holy Baptism.

People who abort their children resemble Herod, who slaughtered 14,000 infants so that he would not be disturbed in his life. It would even be possible to consider them worse than Herod since the 14,000 infants were at least not Herod's own sons and daughters.

And every man who has any part in the horrible work of abortion, no matter what he thinks of it, participates in a murderous act and has the greatest shame before the Lord, who prescribes to an absolute degree: "Thou shalt not kill!"



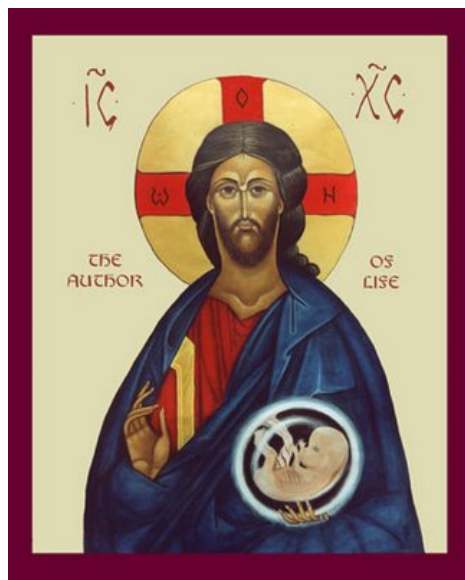
Herod orders the slaughter of the Innocents, an early Christian fresco in the hypogeum of Santa Maria in Stelle, Verona (UNESCO World Heritage List, 2000), Veneto. Detail. Italy, 5th century.

When we ask, “What does the Church say?” we are not looking to find out what knowledge or opinion some high priests have on this subject.

The basic doctrine of the Church is that the chief priests do not form the faith of the Church. They are not masters of the faith. They do not have the right to shape it to their liking. The archpriests and priests are the guardians of the faith. They have a duty to fight for it. They must be ready to shed their blood to defend it.

The teaching of the Church is the same in all its aspects since the time of our Lord. The Church, in everything she says and teaches, does not take the opinions of men as a criterion. She does not speak from the earth. The Church is the bearer of the truth proclaimed by the Lord Jesus Christ. Her opinions are from above. They are an expression of divine wisdom.

When the views of the Church conflict with and contradict the findings of science, then science is earthly, dust, and demonic, worthy of contempt. In everything, everywhere and always, the scholarship of the holy Apostle Paul applies: “Let God be true, but every man a liar” (Rom. 3:4).



Today, the findings of modern medicine, anthropology, biochemistry and biology agree with the teaching of the Church. They tell us that abortion since it interrupts an autonomous life that exists to the fullest extent, is murder and that the fetus is an autonomous and self-existent life, an individual with all the rights from the point of conception (From the book *ABORTIONS*, by Metropolitan Meletios of Nikopolis, 1989).

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Abortion, at whatever stage of gestation, is a premeditated murder

Abortion is the intentional murder of human life, no matter what stage of development the embryo is in. Therefore, it is irrelevant whether the embryo is aborted at an advanced stage of development (e.g., when the human organs are formed) or aborted in the first hours after conception. **At any time during its life and development, whether or not the embryo is expelled, this abortive act constitutes a crime equivalent to the murder of human life.**

There is no doubt that Abortion is the ultimate act of Selfishness and Infidelity. It comes to the point where the mother herself kills her own child, who is pregnant in her womb. Unfortunately, this uncharacteristic crime is often committed with the tacit tolerance, if not with the encouragement, of the pregnant child's father and grandparents who, directly or indirectly, have the mother perform the Abortion. And so they, too, become perpetrators of murder. They are also murderers, just as ALL those who cooperate in any way with an Abortion are murderers:

The mother who agrees to kill her child; The father who does not prevent (either by agreeing or coercing); The parents of the pregnant woman or her in-laws who pressure; The relatives who advise; The acquaintances and friends who advocate; The doctor who commits the crime; The nurses who actively support; The friend or acquaintance who finances the Abortion (such as, e.g. in cases where the crime is committed secretly without the pregnant woman's parents knowing) etc., etc. (Source: The Honourable and Life-giving Cross of the Holy Monastery of Stavrovouniou, Cyprus).

If it is not alive, then why does it grow?

If he is not human, then who is?

If he's not a child, then why is he sucking his finger?

Why do we allow his death if he is a living human child?



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The New Herod: Abortion as a Modern Queen



Allegorical Icon about Abortion by Konstantinos Vrousos

Left: Christ blesses and protects the Christian family; He accepts the woman who repents for her abortion; He strengthens the single mother who was seduced into relationships but did not resort to abortion and takes up the cross of motherhood out of wedlock.

Right: Abortion is personified as a queen - a new Herod. He slaughters and tramples on unborn children offered by women, who are personifications of Hard-heartedness, Superficiality, Indifference and Indulgence. An abortive “doctor” who kills an unborn child can also be seen with pocketed banknotes.

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NOTES

1. Phronema is a word derived from the ancient Greek language and means thought, spirit, mood, will, and desire. In modern Greek, the word describes spirit, morality, emotion and mindset.
- [An Orthodox View of Abortion](#) - The *Amicus Curiae* Submitted to the Supreme Court
 - [Abortion: The Finishing Blow](#) by Elder Ephraim of Arizona
 - [Abortion as a Form of Genocide](#) by Elder Ephraim of Vatopaidi Monastery, Mt. Athos
 - *Real Choices: A New Approach Offering Help and Hope Instead of Abortion* by Frederica Mathewes-Green
 - *The Right to Life: The Eastern Orthodox Perspective on Abortion* by Dr. Dumitru Macaila
 - *The Walls Are Talking: Former Abortion Clinic Workers Tell Their Stories* by Abby Johnson, Kristin Detrow

